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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,301	07/03/2003	Hideki Kemmochi	P 0304672 H7966us	3932
7590 Mr. Roger R. Wise PILLSBURY MADISON & SUTRO LLP Suite 1200 725 South Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90017			EXAMINER AZAD, ABUL K	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	02/22/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/613,301	KEMMOCHI, HIDEKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	ABUL K. AZAD	2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2003.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-6 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenmochi et al. (EP 1 220 195) in view of Yang (US 5,808,222).

As per claim 1, Kenmochi teaches, "a singing voice synthesizing apparatus", comprising:

"a singing voice information input device that inputs singing voice information for synthesizing singing voice" (Fig. 2B, element 21);

"a phoneme database that stores voice synthesis unit data" (Fig. 1, element 10);

"a selector that selects the voice synthesis unit data stored in the phoneme database in accordance with the singing voice information" (Fig. 1, element 10).

Kenmochi does not explicitly teach, "a timbre transformation parameter input device that inputs a timbre transformation parameter for transforming timbre and a singing voice synthesizer that generates a synthetic singing voice of which character is changed by transforming the voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter". However, Yang teaches, "a timbre transformation parameter

input device that inputs a timbre transformation parameter for transforming timbre and a singing voice synthesizer that generates a synthetic singing voice of which character is changed by transforming the voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter" (col. 7, line 58 to col. 8, line 36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Yang's teaching of a timbre transformation in the invention of Kenmochi because Yang teaches his invention provides optimal tradeoff between high timbre quality and low timbre vibrations (col. 8, lines 30-31).

As per claim 2, Kenmochi teaches, "further comprising a characteristic parameter output device that derives a characteristic parameter from the voice synthesis unit data selected by and outputs the derived characteristic parameter (Fig. 2B).

Kenmochi does not explicitly teach, "selector wherein the singing voice synthesizer corrects the characteristic parameter in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter". However, Yang teaches, "selector wherein the singing voice synthesizer corrects the characteristic parameter in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter" (col. 7, line 58 to col. 8, line 36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Yang's teaching of a timbre transformation in the invention of Kenmochi because Yang teaches his invention provides optimal tradeoff between high timbre quality and low timbre vibrations (col. 8, lines 30-31).

As per claim 3, Kenmochi does not explicitly teach, "wherein the singing voice synthesizer adjusts a spectrum envelope generated based on the selected voice

synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter". However, Yang teaches, "wherein the singing voice synthesizer adjusts a spectrum envelope generated based on the selected voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter" (col. 7, line 58 to col. 8, line 36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Yang's teaching of a timbre transformation in the invention of Kenmochi because Yang teaches his invention provides optimal tradeoff between high timbre quality and low timbre vibrations (col. 8, lines 30-31).

As per claim 4, Kenmochi does not explicitly teach, "wherein the timbre transformation parameter input device comprises a timbre transformation parameter adjuster that changes the timbre transformation parameter in a time axis". However, Yang teaches, "wherein the timbre transformation parameter input device comprises a timbre transformation parameter adjuster that changes the timbre transformation parameter in a time axis (col. 7, line 58 to col. 8, line 36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Yang's teaching of a timbre transformation in the invention of Kenmochi because Yang teaches his invention provides optimal tradeoff between high timbre quality and low timbre vibrations (col. 8, lines 30-31).

As per claims 5 and 6, they are interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1, because of their similar scope.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richemond Dorvil**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7602**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

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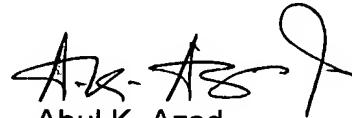
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Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

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February 15, 2007



Abul K. Azad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626